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PETER J. OSTROSKEY
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

To: Heads of Fire Departments

From: Peter J. Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal

Date: August 1, 2019

Subject: New Smoking and Porch Fire Safety Public Service Announcements

Smoking fires continue to be a major concern in Massachusetts. Public health advocates have moved smokers outside and we have seen an increase in smoking fires starting outside and on the exterior of buildings. A butt flicked off the porch into dried leaves or snubbed out into a potted plant or plastic container can easily start a fire. Rear porch fires are a major cause of fast moving fires that can threaten our densely built neighborhoods. Porch fires can burn for a long time undetected by occupants or interior smoke alarms. These fires can quickly spread to multiple structures.

DFS developed new radio and television public service announcements (PSAs) on the proper (and improper) disposal of smoking materials. They are intended to communicate these messages in a humorous way. Educators should feel free to use these PSAs on social media, in presentations to community groups, and on local cable television.

Tools for Local Fire Departments

You can access these PSAs and other smoking fire safety resources on our Smoking Fire Safety webpage (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/smoking-fire-safety>) or view them directly on the DFS YouTube Channel at (www.YouTube.com/DFSOSFM) https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF2_yYxLttQYLlyUnrp4280pRs1rtKFWH.

For local television or radio use, contact the Public Information Office at (978) 567-3189 to arrange for the correct format to be sent to your station.

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